

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract on page 12 of the specification with the following:

~~Exemplary silicon carbide ceramic bodies are produced according to the invention. An exemplary ceramic body includes silicon carbide in major amounts and an organic gelation agent in a minor amount. An exemplary ceramic body exhibits sufficient density and hardness to function as body armor.~~

A process of producing a reaction bonded silicon carbide body, where the process includes combining a carbon source, silicon carbide, an organic gelation agent and a liquid to form a ceramic slurry. The process may also include compacting the ceramic slurry into a green body, and exposing the green body to liquid silicon metal to produce a reaction bonded silicon carbide body.